

THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE KINGDOM

APPENDIX - MEDITATION 5

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (P321)

"My mother, I love you; love me too. Increase in my soul the Will of God, and grant me your blessing also, so that I may do all my actions under your maternal gaze."

The soul to its Heavenly Mother:

Holy Mother, your maternal love calls out to me with an increasingly powerful voice.

I see that you are busy making final preparations to leave Nazareth. Dear mother, do not leave me, but take me with you, and I will listen attentively to more of your sublime lessons.

Lesson of the Queen of Heaven:

Beloved child, your company and the care you show in listening to my heavenly lessons in order to imitate me, are the most pure joys you can offer my maternal heart.

I enjoy imparting to you such lessons, for in so doing, I am able to share with you the immense riches of my inheritance.

Now, listen closely to what I say by fixing your gaze on both Jesus and me.

I will narrate to you an episode of my life which, though consoling in its outcome, was most sorrowful to me – consider that if the Divine Will had not given me continuous and new infusions of strength and grace, I would have died of pure sorrow.

We continued to spend our lives in the quiet little house of Nazareth, and my dear Son grew in grace and wisdom.

He was charming in the sweetness and gentleness of his voice, in the sweet enchantment of his eyes, and in the loveliness of his whole being.

Yes, my Son was truly beautiful – he was beauty itself!

He had recently reached the age of twelve, when we went to Jerusalem according to the custom in order to solemnize the Passover.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁴The expression of the Holy Family going to Jerusalem to "solemnize the Passover" is understood after the manner in which Jesus and Mary went to Cana to sanctify all marriages (cf. Meditation 6).

The Passover is a reminder of how God spared his people from death in Egypt.

Jesus and Mary, aware that blood of the Passover lamb foreshadowed Jesus' sacrifice, came to Jerusalem to solemnize the meaning of Passover, which would henceforth represent God's passing over the sins of the people who repent in order to spare them eternal death and grant them eternal life.¹⁴⁴

We set out on the journey – Jesus, Saint Joseph and I.

Very often, as we walked with devotion and recollection, my beloved Jesus would break the silence by speaking of his Heavenly Father and the immense love for souls He felt in his Heart.

In Jerusalem, we went directly to the Temple, and when we arrived, we prostrated ourselves with our faces to the ground adoring God profoundly, and we prayed at length.

Our prayer was so fervent and recollected as to cause heaven to open, and captivate and sweetly bind the Heavenly Father, whereby the reconciliation between God and man was hastened.

Now, my child, I want to confide to you a sorrow that deeply troubles me.

Unfortunately there are many who go to Church and pray, but the prayer they direct to God remains on their lips because their hearts and minds are far from him...

How many go to Church out of pure habit, or to spend time uselessly!
Such individuals cause heaven to close instead of open...
How much irreverence there is in the house of God!
If all souls made an effort to imitate our example, how many scourges would be spared and chastisements converted into graces in the world!

Only the prayer that comes from a soul, in whom the Divine Will reigns, acts in an irresistible way upon the Heart of God.

Such a prayer is so powerful that it conquers God and obtains from him the greatest graces.

Therefore, be sure to live in the Divine Will, and I, your mother who loves you, will vest your prayers with the same qualities of my own powerful intercession.

After we had fulfilled our duty in the Temple and celebrated the Passover, we prepared to return to Nazareth.

Amid the confusion of the crowd, we were separated; I remained with the women and Joseph joined the men.

I looked around to see whether my sweet Jesus had come with me and, not seeing him, I thought He had remained with his father Joseph.

But upon arriving at the place where Joseph and I were to reunite, I was astounded and grieved when I discovered that Jesus was not at Joseph's side!

Unaware of what had happened to Jesus, we were shocked and felt such sorrow that we were both left speechless.

Overcome with sorrow, we went back hurriedly, earnestly asking those we met:

"Please tell us if you have seen Jesus, our Son, for we cannot live without him!"

In tears we described his features:

"He is the most loveable child;

his beautiful cerulean eyes sparkle with light and speak to the heart;

his gaze is striking, enrapturing and captivating;

his brow is majestic and his face beautiful - of an enchanting beauty;

his sweetest voice penetrates the very depths of the heart and removes all worry;

his curly hair, similar to fine spun gold, renders him strikingly charming...

To see him is to behold majesty, dignity and sanctity.

He is the most beautiful among the sons of men!"

But despite our searching, nobody was able to tell us anything.

The sorrow I felt was so great that it made me weep bitterly, opening in every passing moment deep furrows in my soul that made me experience the true pangs of death.

Dear child, although Jesus was my Son, He was also my God, and so my sorrow was entirely of the divine order,¹⁴⁵ which enabled me to endure sorrows so vehement and immense that they surpassed all other imaginable torments combined.

¹⁴⁵Cf. footnote 96; footnote 103. ¹⁴⁵

⁹⁶**Whenever Mary refers to the "divine order" she is referring to the love of God and the love of neighbour, in that *order*.** ⁹⁶

¹⁰³**Here the Blessed Virgin Mary distinguishes *human love* from *divine love*, and the *human order* from the *divine order*.**

Is Mary perhaps disparaging human love or affirming that it is disordered? Absolutely not; rather, she is emphasizing the primacy of divine love in all relations that co-exist with love of neighbour.

Indeed, Jesus reveals the two greatest and inseparable commandments:

Love God (divine love) with all your being and

your neighbour (human love) as yourself (Mt. 26:36-40);

St. John reminds us that whoever says he loves God, but does not love his neighbour is a liar (1 Jn. 4:20).

And Mary affirms as much when she states below,

"...had I acted under the guise of not wanting to know man and according to my human will, I would have sent to ruin God's plan of the coming of the Divine Word to earth."¹⁰³

If the Fiat which I possessed had not sustained me continuously with its divine power, I would have died of sorrow.

In seeing that no one was able to inform us of my Son's whereabouts, with earnestness I asked the angels who surrounded me:

"Tell me, where is my beloved Son, Jesus?

Where shall I go to find him?

Ah, tell Jesus that I am searching for him, as I can no longer bear his absence.

Carry him on your wings and place him into my arms!

Oh, my dear angels have pity on my tears; help me by bringing Jesus to me!"¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁶While Mary had command over all creatures, including the angels, they obeyed Mary in the divine order, that is, they did only that which God permitted them to do.

If Luisa tells Mary on Day 10 that

"the angels vie to be around your cradle, to honour you and to act on your every nod",

Jesus reminds Luisa in the 7th Excess of Love that

"the angels adored me reverently, hanging upon my every nod".

In short, the angels who operate in the divine order always obey the Will of God in and through Jesus in all things.

For this reason the angels would not take Mary to Jesus until Jesus permitted them to do so, and after three days, in her words that follow, Mary comes to realize the reason for his absence:

"Only upon seeing him did I feel life in me restored, and soon I understood the secret reason of him being lost..."¹⁴⁶

And with every search turning up empty, we decided to return to Jerusalem.

After three days of most bitter longing – amid tears, anxieties and fears – we entered the Temple.

My eyes were fixed on the lookout as I searched everywhere, when finally, I saw my Son among the doctors of the law and was overcome with jubilation!

He was speaking with such wisdom and majesty that all those who were listening were left enraptured and amazed.

Only upon seeing him did I feel life in me restored, and soon I understood the secret reason of him being lost.

And now, dearest child, a little word to you.

In this mystery my Son wanted to impart to me and to you a sublime lesson.

Could you perhaps assume that He was ignoring my sorrow?

On the contrary, my tears, my searching and my bitter and intense sorrow, resounded within his Heart.

Yet, during these very sorrowful hours of mine, He offered up in sacrifice to the Divine Will his own mother, the one whom He loves so much in order to show me how I too, one day, would have to offer up in sacrifice to the Supreme Will the life of my own Son.

In my unspeakable sorrow, I did not forget about you my beloved child.

Knowing that this event would serve as an example for you, I kept it at your disposal, so that in revealing it to you, you too, at the appropriate time, may have the strength to offer up in sacrifice everything to the Divine Will.

And as Jesus finished speaking, we reverently approached him and addressed him with a sweet reproach: "Son, why have you done this to us?"

And with divine dignity He replied:

"Why did you look for me?

Did you not know that I came into this world to glorify My Father?"

Having understood the sublime meaning of his response and adored in it the Divine Will, we returned to Nazareth.

Child of my maternal heart, listen closely to what I wish to tell you.

When I lost my beloved Jesus, the sorrow I felt was so very intense, and yet, a second sorrow was added, namely, that of losing you.

Indeed, in foreseeing that you would have gone far from the Divine Will, at one and the same time I felt deprived of my Son and of you my child, whence my maternity suffered a double blow to the heart.

So my child, when you are about to do your own will rather than the Will of God, know that in abandoning the Divine Fiat you are about to lose Jesus and me, and will fall into the kingdom of misery and vices.

Keep then the promise you made to me:

To remain indissolubly united with me.

If you do so, I will grant you the grace of never letting you be dominated again by your own will, but only by the Divine Will.

The soul:

Holy Mother, I tremble at the thought of the abyss into which my will is capable of making me fall, and how this can make me lose you, Jesus and all heavenly blessings...

Dear mother, if you do not help me, if you do not surround me with the power of the light of the Divine Will, I do not believe it is possible for me to live in the Divine Will with constancy.

Therefore, I place all my hope in you, in you I trust, and from you I hope to obtain everything. Amen.

Aspiration:

Today recite three Hail Mary's while uniting yourself to the intense sorrow I endured during the three days when I was deprived of my dear Jesus.

Exclamation:

Holy Mother, let me forever lose my own will so that I may live only in the Divine Will.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷The expression, "lose" my own will does not imply that the human will ceases to operate when living in the Divine Will; rather with the gift of Living in the Divine Will God absorbs the human will's finite operation, and vests it with his one eternal operation that enables it to embrace all the lives and acts of all creatures

(L. Piccarreta, volume 14, October 9, 1922 Jesus reveals to Luisa:

"I see your will operating in Mine with the same creative power that desires to give Me everything and to compensate for everyone ...

This is what I desired from the first man ... you cannot completely comprehend it.

The order of creation is restored to me and its harmonies and joys expand without interruption.

I see your human will operating in me in the light of the sun, in the waves of the sea, in the twinkling of the stars, in everything").¹⁴⁷